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NORTH CAROLINA

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

JUL 29 1949

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. HOW MANY SOWS ARE TO BE FARROWED IN THE FALL?
2. WHAT OCCURRED IN BROILER PLACEMENTS DURING MAY?
3. DISCUSS N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX.
4. U. S. PRICES RECEIVED MADE WHAT CHANGE IN MAY?
5. FARMERS PAID MORE OR LESS FOR FEED DURING THE MONTH?
6. PRESENT FOOD PRICES ARE FAVORABLE, OR UNFAVORABLE?
7. HOW MANY CHICKS WERE HATCHED IN N. C. DURING MAY?
8. ARE THERE ANY OUTSTANDING CHANGES IN PRICES FARMERS PAID FOR FURNITURE?
9. NOTE CHANGES IN THE PRICES OF BABY CHICKS.
10. APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY CHICKS WERE HATCHED IN THE U. S. IN MAY?

Farm Report

COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

No 40

RALEIGH, N. C.

JULY 5, 1949

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT ITEMS

NORTH CAROLINA PIG CROP UP

The number of pigs saved in the spring season of 1948 (December 1, 1948 to June 1, 1949) is estimated to be 897,000 head, compared with 800,000 during the same period last year. The current estimate is 14 percent greater than the ten-year (1938-47) average of 786,000.

It is estimated that 138,000 sows farrowed during the period December 1, 1948 to June 1, 1949 as compared with 127,000 during the same period last year or an increase of 9 percent. The current estimate of 138,000 is 8 percent greater than the ten-year (1938-47) average of 128,000 sows farrowed in the spring.

Pigs saved per litter were estimated at 6.5 pigs which is slightly above the number saved per litter last year and is the highest of record. Last year the average litter was 6.3 pigs. The ten-year average litter is 6.2 pigs.

If farmers follow their present intentions, sows farrowing during the fall season June 1 to December 1, 1949, will be somewhat above the number of sows farrowed during the same period last year. Farmers intentions are to farrow 116,000 sows during the coming fall season as compared with 106,000 sows farrowed during the same period last year, or an increase of 9 percent.

For the Nation the 1949 spring pig crop is estimated at 59,040,000 head, an increase of 15 percent from last spring. The number of sows farrowing this spring was 15 percent above last spring's farrowing. Reports on breeding intentions for the coming fall crop indicate a total of 5,832,000 sows to farrow, 13 percent above the number farrowed last fall. The combined 1949 spring and fall pig crop is now expected to be 96 million head. The number of hogs six months old and over on farms and ranches over the entire United States on June 1 was 3 percent less than last year and 15 percent below the 10-year average. The June 1 number is the smallest since 1938.

PRICES RECEIVED DECREASE

Prices received by North Carolina farmers for most crops, livestock and livestock products decreased during the month ending June 15. The "All Farm Products" index decreased from 248 as of May 15 to 240 as of June 15. The index of 240 is the lowest recorded since February 15.

With the exception of corn, hogs and eggs, all commodities sold by farmers decreased in price during the month ending June 15.

The ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by United States farmers declined from 101 as of May 15 to 98 as of June 15.

Most feed prices paid by farmers remained the same or decreased slightly during the month.

The index of prices received by U. S. farmers declined 4 points during the month. The parity ratio (ratio of the index of Prices Received by U. S. Farmers to the Index of Prices Paid, Interest, and Taxes) dropped to 103, the lowest in 7 years, as a result of the lower prices received by farmers.

MAY BROILER PLACEMENTS OFF

Placements of chicks with commercial broiler producers in the Chatham and Wilkes areas during May was 28 percent below placements in the two areas during April according to reports from hatcherymen and dealers. This is a drop of nearly 600,000 chicks below the record high of 2,133,000 chicks placed in April.

For the Chatham area chick placements during May were reported at 916,000, or 25 percent less than the number reported for April. In the Wilkes area hatcherymen and dealers reported a 33 percent drop in placements during May as compared with placements for the previous month. This sharp decline in placements can be partially explained by a drop in broiler prices during May to 25 cents per pound.

Placements during May of this year exceeded last year even though total output in both areas show a decline of 28 percent from April. This drop is the reverse of the trend during the same period last year.

GOOD PASTURES SERVE DUAL-PURPOSES



N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DECREASES

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets decreased from 248 as of May 15 to 240 as of June 15. This is the lowest index of prices received since the February index of 239.

With the exception of poultry, all commodity groups declined during the month. The greatest decrease in the index of prices received occurred in the miscellaneous group of commodities. All commodities making up the miscellaneous group declined in price. Soybeans declined 25 cents per bushel, potatoes declined 75 cents per bushel, cowpeas declined 50 cents per bushel, hay declined \$1.50 per ton, sweetpotatoes declined 10 cents per bushel and commercial apples declined 30 cents per bushel.

The decrease of 4 points in the index of cotton and cottonseed was caused by lower prices for both cotton and cottonseed.

The decrease of 13 points in the grains index was caused by a drop in prices received for wheat, oats, barley and rye. Corn increased 3 cents per bushel-wheat decreased 27 cents per bushel and oats decreased 20 cents per bushel.

The lower meat animal index was caused by decreased prices received for beef cattle, veal calves, sheep and lambs. The price of hogs increased \$1.90 per hundred pounds.

The increase of 2 cents per dozen in the price of eggs was sufficient to offset the decrease of 1 cent per pound in the price of chickens and to raise the poultry index 4 points.

The drop of 5 points in the dairy products index resulted from lower prices received for milk, butter and butterfat.

The ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by U. S. farmers declined 3 points during the month ending June 15. This index at 98 is the same as the index on February 15. The index of 98 indicates that prices received by North Carolina farmers have decreased relatively more than prices paid by U. S. farmers.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JUNE 15, 1949 WITH COMPARISONS

| COMMODITY | UNIT | NORTH CAROLINA | | U. S. |
|-------------------------|------|----------------|---------|---------|
| | | MAY 15 | JUNE 15 | JUNE 15 |
| | | 1949 | 1949 | 1949 |
| -DOLLARS- | | | | |
| CORN..... | BU. | 1.37 | 1.40 | 1.21 |
| WHEAT..... | BU. | 2.20 | 1.93 | 1.86 |
| OATS..... | BU. | .95 | .75 | .601 |
| BARLEY..... | BU. | 1.43 | 1.10 | .928 |
| RYE..... | BU. | 2.02 | 1.85 | 1.13 |
| SOYBEANS..... | BU. | 2.20 | 1.95 | 2.10 |
| COWPEAS..... | BU. | 4.75 | 4.25 | 4.06 |
| PEANUTS..... | LB. | .108 | .107 | .104 |
| COTTON..... | LB. | .319 | .317 | .3013 |
| COTTONSEED..... | TON | 50.00 | 45.00 | 46.70 |
| WOOL..... | LB. | .48 | .47 | .494 |
| HOGS..... | CWT. | 17.10 | 19.00 | 18.80 |
| BEEF CATTLE..... | CWT. | 18.50 | 18.00 | 20.90 |
| VEAL CALVES..... | CWT. | 23.40 | 23.10 | 23.40 |
| SHEEP..... | CWT. | 9.90 | 8.40 | 9.95 |
| LAMBS..... | CWT. | 25.10 | 24.20 | 24.40 |
| MILK COWS..... | HEAD | 139.00 | 138.00 | 183.00 |
| CHICKENS..... | LB. | .27 | .26 | .261 |
| EGGS..... | DOZ. | .45 | .47 | .441 |
| MILK, WHOLESALE..... | CWT. | 4.50 | 4.40 | 3.55 |
| RETAIL..... | QT. | .20 | .197 | .181 |
| BUTTER..... | LB. | .55 | .54 | .568 |
| BUTTERFAT..... | LB. | .53 | .53 | .593 |
| HAY: ALL LOOSE..... | TON | 31.00 | 29.50 | 16.40 |
| ALL BALED..... | TON | 31.90 | 31.00 | 20.90 |
| POTATOES..... | BU. | 2.10 | 1.35 | 1.75 |
| SWEET POTATOES..... | BU. | 2.65 | 2.55 | 2.64 |
| APPLES, COMMERCIAL..... | BU. | 3.30 | 3.00 | 3.02 |
| LESPEDEZA SEED..... | CWT. | 10.90 | 10.30 | 8.65 |
| KOREAN..... | CWT. | 8.30 | 10.10 | 11.10 |
| KOBE..... | CWT. | 12.90 | 15.90 | 17.80 |
| COM. & TENN. 76..... | CWT. | 18.40 | 18.00 | " |
| SERICEA..... | CWT. | 20.40 | 28.80 | 28.80 |

April production in all industries, except automobiles and manufactured food products was below postwar peaks.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS

(N. C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

| COMMODITY | MAY 15 1949 | JUNE 15 1949 | JUNE 15 1948 | JUNE 15 1947 | JUNE 15 1946 |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| N. C. INDEX NUMBERS | | | | | |
| ALL FARM PRODUCTS.. | 248 | 240 | 275 | 261 | 214 |
| COTTON & COTTONSEED | 247 | 243 | 290 | 276 | 212 |
| GRAINS..... | 179 | 166 | 220 | 209 | 188 |
| MEAT ANIMALS..... | 360 | 351 | 377 | 338 | 244 |
| POULTRY..... | 233 | 237 | 256 | 235 | 211 |
| DAIRY PRODUCTS..... | 222 | 217 | 232 | 211 | 184 |
| MISCELLANEOUS..... | 260 | 234 | 242 | 239 | 228 |
| RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID* | 101 | 98 | 110 | 113 | 114 |
| U. S. INDEX NUMBERS | | | | | |
| PRICES RECEIVED..... | 256 | 252 | 295 | 271 | 218 |
| PRICES PAID | | | | | |
| INTEREST & TAXES... | 245 | 245 | 251 | 230 | 188 |
| RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID... | 104 | 103 | 118 | 118 | 116 |

* Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.

U. S. PRICES RECEIVED DOWN 4 POINTS

Led by falling prices for truck crops and food grains, the Index of Prices Received by Farmers declined 4 points (nearly 2 percent) to 252 percent of the August 1909-July 1914 average. Meanwhile, the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers including interest and taxes, at 245, was unchanged from a month ago.

The Parity Ratio (ratio of the Index of Prices received by Farmers to the Index of Prices Paid, Interest, and Taxes) dropped to 103, the lowest in 7 years, as a result of the lower prices received by farmers.

The decline in the prices received index was the result of lower prices generally. Hogs, the main exception, were up about 5 percent from a month ago. Tomato prices were off about one-half from a month earlier. Wheat was off 14 cents per bushel, lambs were down \$.90 per cwt., and chickens were off about 2 cents per pound. Dairy products were off seasonally.

While the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers including interest and taxes remained the same as a month ago, the family living component was up one point, mainly as a result of higher food prices which were only partially offset by lower prices for furniture, furnishings, and building materials for houses. The index of prices of production items was down 3 points with the feed index off 10 points from last month. Feed was off 28 percent from a year ago. Building materials other than house were down around 7 percent.

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS
AND PARITY PRICES

| COMMODITY | PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS | | PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES | | AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| | MAY 15 1949 | JUNE 15 1949 | MAY 15 1949 | JUNE 15 1949 | MAY 15 1949 | JUNE 15 1949 |
| - DOLLARS - | | | | | | |
| COTTON, LB..... | .299 | .301 | .303 | 30.38 | 99 | 99 |
| WHEAT, BU..... | 2.00 | 1.86 | 2.17 | 2.17 | 92 | 86 |
| CORN, BU..... | 1.22 | 1.21 | 1.57 | 1.57 | 78 | 77 |
| OATS, BU..... | .660 | .601 | .978 | .978 | 67 | 61 |
| BARLEY, BU..... | .97 | .928 | 1.52 | 1.52 | - | 61 |
| RYE, BU..... | 1.19 | 1.13 | 1.76 | 1.76 | - | - |
| BEEF CATTLE, CWT.. | 20.90 | 20.90 | 13.30 | 13.30 | 157 | 157 |
| HOGS, CWT..... | 17.90 | 18.80 | 17.80 | 17.80 | 101 | 106 |
| LAMBS, CWT..... | 25.30 | 24.40 | 14.40 | 14.40 | 176 | 169 |
| CHICKENS, CWT.... | .28 | .261 | .279 | .279 | 101 | 94 |
| EGGS, DOZ..... | .434 | .441 | .527 | .527 | 96* | 95* |
| MILK, WHLSE, CWT.. | 3.61 | 3.55 | 3.92 | 3.92 | 102* | 102* |

* Ratio of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARMERS WITH COMPARISONS, 1948-49

| ITEMS | NORTH CAROLINA | | | UNITED STATES | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | DEC. 15 1948 | MAR. 15 1949 | MAR. 15 1948 | DEC. 15 1948 | MAR. 15 1949 | MAR. 15 1948 |
| | - DOLLARS - | | | | | |
| RUGS, AXMINSTER, 9' X 12', EACH..... | 67.00 | 67.00 | 64.00 | 70.80 | 70.20 | 69.80 |
| RUGS, FELT BASE, 9' X 12', EACH..... | 11.50 | 12.00 | 11.50 | 10.60 | 10.50 | 10.70 |
| CHAIRS, DINING-ROOM, OAK, EACH..... | 5.30 | 4.85 | 4.85 | 5.65 | 5.55 | 5.32 |
| TABLES, DINING-ROOM 42" X 54", EACH..... | 35.00 | 34.00 | 34.00 | 49.60 | 49.40 | 44.20 |
| DINING-ROOM SUITES, EACH..... | 220.00 | 215.00 | 200.00 | 208.00 | 205.00 | 197.00 |
| LIVING-ROOM SUITES, 2-PC., EACH..... | 130.00 | 125.00 | 135.00 | 170.00 | 164.00 | 168.00 |
| BEDROOM SUITES, EACH..... | 130.00 | 130.00 | 130.00 | 158.00 | 154.00 | 155.00 |
| DRESSERS, WITH MIRRORS, EACH..... | 33.00 | 33.00 | 32.00 | 39.60 | 39.30 | 38.20 |
| BEDSTEADS, METAL, DOUBLE, EACH..... | 13.50 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 13.50 | 13.40 | 12.90 |
| MATTRESSES, 54", FELTED COTTON, EACH..... | 23.50 | 22.50 | 24.50 | 21.80 | 21.10 | 22.40 |
| BED SPRINGS, DOUBLE, SAGLESS, EACH..... | 16.00 | 16.00 | 14.50 | 15.70 | 15.70 | 14.70 |
| KITCHEN CABINETS, EACH..... | 53.00 | 53.00 | 53.00 | 55.80 | 54.80 | 55.10 |
| STOVES, 6 - HOLE, KITCHEN RANGE, EACH..... | 84.00 | 82.00 | 77.00 | 109.00 | 107.00 | 107.00 |
| WASHING MACHINES, ELECTRIC, EACH..... | 135.00 | 130.00 | 140.00 | 130.00 | 125.00 | 132.00 |
| REFRIGERATORS, ELECTRIC, EACH..... | 225.00 | 225.00 | - | - | - | - |

FURNITURE PRICES MORE FAVORABLE

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for specified furniture items as of March 15 are reported as slightly below prices paid on December 15 of last year. However, prices paid for furniture by N. C. farmers as of March 15 of the current year were somewhat above prices reported for the same date last year.

Although most furniture items showed increases over March of last year declines are reported for certain kinds. For instance, the average price paid for washing machines has declined \$10.00 since March of last year. Other items to show a drop in prices for the same period were living room suites and mattresses. The table above gives average prices paid for specified items of furniture purchased by farmers in North Carolina and the Nation as a whole as of March 15, with comparisons.

TOBACCO TAXES TOTAL MORE THAN GROWERS' RECEIPTS

Taxes from tobacco--Federal and State--in the '49 fiscal year are estimated at over 1.7 billion dollars, largest tax ever collected. Growers' cash receipts from tobacco, same fiscal year, will total a little less than 1 billion dollars (\$985 million estimate). This would be a near record return to growers from tobacco, second only to fiscal '47.

NUMBER EMPLOYED IN U. S. SAME AS YEAR AGO

Civilian employment throughout the entire United States in May totaled 58.7 million, up nearly a million from 57.8 million recorded in April. Total in May last year was 58.7 million, same as now. But the working force is more than a million larger than a year ago. And unemployed in May had increased to 3.3 million. In April only 3 million were without work.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS JUNE 15, 1949 WITH COMPARISONS

| FEED PER HUNDRED WEIGHT | NORTH CAROLINA | | UNITED STATES | |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | MAY 15 1949 | JUNE 15 1949 | MAY 15 1949 | JUNE 15 1949 |
| | - DOLLARS - | | | |
| BRAN..... | 3.60 | 3.55 | 3.42 | 3.13 |
| MIDDLINGS..... | 3.75 | 3.75 | 3.57 | 3.32 |
| CORN MEAL..... | 4.40 | 4.10 | 3.38 | 3.33 |
| COTTONSEED MEAL..... | 3.30 | 3.30 | 3.76 | 3.73 |
| MIXED DAIRY FEED: | | | | |
| 16% PROTEIN..... | 3.50 | 3.45 | 3.57 | 3.45 |
| 18% PROTEIN..... | 3.75 | 3.75 | 3.76 | 3.61 |
| 20% PROTEIN..... | 3.85 | 3.80 | 3.84 | 3.66 |
| LAYING MASH..... | 4.80 | 4.80 | 4.53 | 4.47 |
| SCRATCH GRAIN..... | 4.35 | 4.30 | 4.00 | 3.94 |
| MEAT SCRAP..... | 6.60 | 7.10 | 6.35 | 6.81 |

FEED PRICES UNCHANGED OR DOWN SLIGHTLY

North Carolina farmers paid slightly lower prices for most protein and grain by-products feeds during the month ending June 15, middlings, cottonseed meal, 18% mixed dairy feed and laying mash were unchanged in price.

Bran, corn meal, 16% and 20% mixed dairy feed, and scratch grain decreased in prices during the month ending June 15. Meat scrap increased 50 cents per hundred pounds.

With the exception of meat scrap, feed prices paid by U. S. farmers decreased during the month to a greater extent than did North Carolina prices.

DOMESTIC DEMAND EASING; FOREIGN DEMAND STRONG

Demand in the United States for farm products has continued fairly stable in recent months, after declining to a lower level than last year, and no sharp reductions are expected. However, trends in industrial output and consumer purchasing power indicate some further weakening-especially in domestic demand. Foreign demand remains strong. Agricultural exports, first quarter of '49, highest since first half of '47.

HIRED FARM LABOR UP FROM YEAR AGO

More hired laborers worked on farms in the United States last May than a year earlier, but the number of farm family workers was less. Total agricultural employment was 12 million compared with 12.3 million a year ago.

FEWER EGGS PRODUCED IN U. S. DURING MAY

Eggs per layer in May equaled the record set a year earlier. But fewer layers brought total production down 2 percent from a year earlier. Total in May was 5,845 million eggs compared with 5,969 million in May '48, and 5,716 million 10-year average for May. Production first 5 months totaled 27.5 billion eggs compared with 27.3 billion same period in '48, and 25 billion average.

FARM REPORT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Raleigh, N. C.

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FORM BAE-7-49-9,000
PERMIT No. 1001

Released By The
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
W. F. Callander, Assistant Chief
and published by the
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Statistics
L.Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Issued Semi-Monthly Through The
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
Frank Parker, Statistician in Charge

PRIMARILY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO
CROP REPORTERS AND AGRICULTURAL LEADERS

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

JULY 1949

FARM REPORT

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AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY FARMERS FOR SPECIFIED FOOD ITEMS, NORTH CAROLINA 1940, 1948 AND 1949, U. S. 1948 AND 1949

| COMMODITY | UNIT | NORTH CAROLINA | | | | | | | | | | UNITED STATES | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|----------------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| | | 1940 | | | | 1948 | | | | 1949 | 1948 | | | | 1949 | |
| | | MAR. | JUNE | SEPT. | DEC. | MAR. | JUNE | SEPT. | DEC. | MAR. | MAR. | JUNE | SEPT. | DEC. | MAR. | |
| - CENTS - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SUGAR..... | PER 10 LB. | 56 | 53 | 51 | 51 | 99 | 96 | 97 | 95 | 98 | 98.9 | 95.9 | 96.8 | 96.7 | 97.6 | |
| FLOUR* | PER 25 LB. | 87 | 85 | 75 | 78 | 215 | 210 | 200 | 200 | 195 | 211.0 | 204.0 | 197.0 | 196.0 | 195.0 | |
| BREAD, WHITE..... | PER LB. | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 15.2 | 15.4 | 15.4 | 15.4 | 15.1 | 14.2 | 14.2 | 14.2 | 14.1 | 14.1 | |
| CORN MEAL..... | PER LB. | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.0 | 5.5 | 7.78 | 7.77 | 7.65 | 6.39 | 5.9 | |
| ROLLED OATS, PACKAGED.. | PER LB. | 8.3 | 8.5 | 8.0 | 7.9 | 14.8 | 14.5 | 14.8 | 15.2 | 14.3 | 13.0 | 13.1 | 13.0 | 13.0 | 12.5 | |
| RICE..... | PER LB. | 7.9 | 8.0 | 8.2 | 8.0 | 21.1 | 21.9 | 21.3 | 19.7 | 19.0 | 20.6 | 21.4 | 21.2 | 19.0 | 18.5 | |
| BACON, SLICED..... | PER LB. | 24 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 68 | 74 | 74 | 72 | 61 | 68.1 | 73.5 | 74.0 | 71.0 | 61.3 | |
| ROUND STEAK..... | PER LB. | 28 | 28 | 30 | 28 | 73 | 85 | 85 | 78 | 75 | 71.6 | 83.7 | 85.2 | 77.6 | 73.4 | |
| PORK LOIN..... | PER LB. | 21 | 22 | 25 | 23 | 58 | 64 | 74 | 57 | 58 | 58.9 | 63.7 | 75.7 | 58.4 | 59.4 | |
| LARD..... | PER LB. | 11 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 30 | 22.1 | 31.0 | 31.3 | 31.4 | 28.0 | 20.7 | |
| BUTTER..... | PER LB. | 34 | 34 | 33 | 37 | 89 | 92 | 88 | 78 | 77 | 86.4 | 88.0 | 83.2 | 75.1 | 73.5 | |
| CHEESE, AMERICAN..... | PER LB. | 24 | 24 | 23 | 25 | 60 | 64 | 64 | 60 | 55 | 60.7 | 63.6 | 64.3 | 58.7 | 53.5 | |
| COFFEE..... | PER LB. | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 52 | 52 | 52 | 52 | 50 | 52.4 | 52.6 | 52.7 | 53.1 | 52.8 | |
| TEA, ORANGE PEKOE..... | PER LB. | 67 | 64 | 65 | 65 | 115 | 120 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 115.0 | 120.0 | 121.0 | 123.0 | 123.0 | |
| ORANGES, 216'S..... | PER DOZ. | 20 | 27 | - | 17 | 29 | 31 | - | 27 | 15.0 | 38.8 | 42.0 | - | 39.6 | 42.6 | |
| BANANAS..... | PER LB. | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 14.7 | 14.9 | 15.3 | 14.9 | 12.8 | 16.1 | 16.4 | 16.8 | 16.7 | 16.9 | |
| APPLES, FRESH..... | PER LB. | 4.3 | 5.3 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 11.6 | 12.8 | 10.3 | 11.0 | - | 11.0 | 12.8 | 11.1 | 12.0 | 14.1 | |

* 24 pound bags prior to 1948.

FOOD PRICES SLIGHTLY LOWER

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for some of the major foods as of March 15, 1949 were slightly below prices farmers were paying three months earlier according to the March quarterly survey conducted on prices paid for food by North Carolina farmers. In comparing prices reported for March 15 of 1949 with prices paid by farmers on the same date last year a much wider margin is noted. However, food prices as of March 15, 1949 holds a considerable margin over the prices farmers were paying on March 15, 1940. The table above gives average prices paid and comparisons of some of the principal foods purchased by farmers in North Carolina and throughout the U. S.

PRICES OF BABY CHICKS

Average prices received per 100 chicks by North Carolina hatcheries

on June 1 showed a small decline for most breeds from the prices received a month earlier. Straight-run and sexed pullets of heavy breeds dropped \$.50 and \$2.50 per hundred respectively. Sexed cockerels of the same breed remained at \$13.50 per hundred, the price reported for the previous month.

Declines were also present for light breeds with straight-run and sexed pullets showing declines of \$.50 and \$1.50 per hundred respectively; whereas, sexed cockerels of this same breed remained at \$4.00 per hundred. Straight-run chicks of cross-breeds dropped to \$15.00 per hundred, giving a decline of \$1.00 per hundred under the price reported for May 1.

A comparison of prices received between June 1 of this year and June 1 of last year shows that prices received for the two periods are in rather close agreement. Light breeds for June 1, 1949, are nearly \$1.00 per hundred above prices reported for the same date last year,

CHICK PRODUCTION HIGHER

The number of chicks produced by North Carolina hatcheries during May was 25 percent more than was produced during May of last year, and 30 percent above the May 1943-47 average. May production totaled 6,550,000 chicks, as compared with production for last month of 8,671,000 chicks. If the normal seasonal trend is followed, hatchings will continue down reaching their low point in September or October. The demand for chicks continues above that of a year ago, and all indications point to a hatchery output that will continue above last year, during the next two months.

Production of chicks in North Carolina for the first five months of this year totaled 32,374,000 -- an increase of 37 percent above the 23,543,000 produced during the same period last year.

United States chick production totaled 275,208,000 chicks for May.